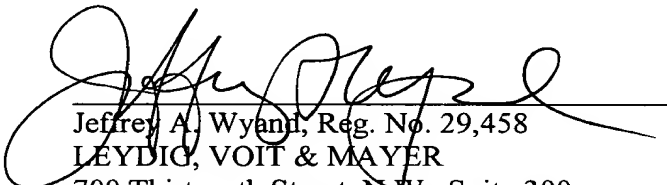


REMARKS

In supplementation of the Amendment filed January 23, 2004, further amendments, directed only to issues of form, are made with respect to several of the pending claims. There is no substantive amendment from the claims as presented in the Amendment filed January 23, 2004. Rather, the amendments are directed only issues of form and are intended to place the claims in better form for allowance. For example, reference to the etching gas, defined in claim 1 as HF gas, is made consistent. The appropriate Markush claim form that is employed in claims 27 and 28. Language in some of the claims that may not be considered appropriate is eliminated.

Entry of the foregoing Amendment and action on the patent application, based upon the Amendment filed January 23, 2004, which presented correct and appropriate arguments against the rejection as supplemented by the foregoing Amendment, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAW:ves